

MINUTES AND REPORT

OF

MEETING OF COUNCIL

THE COOPERATIVE FEDERATION OF VICTORIA

held at 225 Swanston Street, Melbourne on Monday, 1st December commencing at 7 p.m.

1. PRESENT

Mr. J. N. Black	Chairman
Mr. E. J. Long	
Mr. B. H. Macintosh	
Mr. M. Rundle	
Mr. O. J. Slattery	Executive Officer
Mr. W. W. Rawlinson	

Apologies for Absence

Messrs. K. D. Currey, A. Dash, J. Rigby,
I. A. Wood.

2. MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held 28th October 1980, having been circulated, were confirmed and adopted as a correct record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

3.i Fleet Vehicle Purchasing Scheme - Minute 3.v

The C.F.A. Fleet Vehicle Liaison Officer attended the meeting of the C.F.A. Council on 27th November, when the total returns from States was discussed. That Council instructed the Victorian Federation to obtain firm commitments from the Cooperatives which had expressed interest in the scheme and, on receipt of firm commitments from all States, the C.F.A. Fleet Vehicle Liaison Officer will enter into dealings with GM-H with a view to finalising the total proposals.

3.ii Trading Cooperatives Meeting - Minute 10

A useful meeting of 10 Trading Cooperatives, with 13 representatives, was held on 18th November 1980. Recommendations from that meeting included a request that the Federation expedite development of its proposals for implementation of a centralised banking and investment service.

The membership fees structure was also discussed and the group requested a review of the subscription rates.

Council agreed:

that all non-member Trading Cooperatives be invited to membership of the Federation from 1st January 1981 at a half year subscription, together with an undertaking that the Council would consider, as a future proposition, the possible alternative of group membership of Trading Cooperatives with consequent effect on individual subscription rates.

3.iii

Work Cooperatives Representation - Minute 11(ii) (b)

Mr. Tony Gill of the Ballarat Cooperative Workshop has been nominated by the Work Cooperative group to represent their interests on the Council.

4.

CORRESPONDENCE

4.i

From Murray Goulburn Cooperative - nominating Mr. P. W. Foster to replace Mr. I. A. Wood as representative of the Dairy Manufacturing industry on the Council.

4.ii

From Cooperative Insurance Company - nominating Mr. A. Plant to replace Mr. K. D. Currey as the Cooperative Insurance industry representative on the Council.

4.iii

To and from the Attorney General - re continuing Cooperative provisions in the proposed new uniform Companies Act.

4.iv

To Herd Improvement Organisation - re group membership of 6 Herd Improvement Cooperatives.

4.v

From D. G. Amos, M.P. and R. J. Long, M.L.C.
To Morwell Cooperative - re the intentions of the Minister on possible transfer of some current Registry responsibilities to the Corporate Affairs Commission.

4.vi

From Hansard - No.6 p.1943 setting out details of the staff of the Cooperative Registry.

4.vii

From Box Hill Workforce Cooperative - re the liabilities of Cooperative Directors.

4.viii

From V.C.C.A. - October/November 1980 Newsletter No.33.
(b)
National Times Business Review - November 30th regarding financial structure V.C.C.A.

5.

FINANCIAL

Financial Statement as at the 30th received.

In view of the the past three sibilities, c effects, it was for an increase

6.

LEGISLATION

6.i

6.ii

7.

CENTRALISED BANK

The requested bank scheme by the Council directed

5. FINANCIAL

Financial Statement of Income and Expenditure and Estimated Balance Sheet as at the 30th November 1980 was presented to the meeting, discussed and received.

In view of the fact that the Government grant has remained unchanged for the past three years and the assistance of the Federation to Registry responsibilities, of supervision of Cooperatives, together with inflationary effects, it was considered that a submission should be made in due course for an increase in the rate of grant assistance.

6. LEGISLATION

6.i Societies

Mr. Long reported that the first draft of proposals for a Bill to amend the Co-operation Act 1958 has been prepared and the Registrar has indicated will be made available for study by the Federation prior to its admission into Parliament. Comments on the draft proposals are required by the Registrar by mid-February 1981.

The proposed new Act contains 251 clauses, as against 116 in the present Act. It also contains many provisions extracted from the Companies Act relating to prospectuses, official management, foreign societies. It is proposed the Bill will be introduced into the Autumn 1981 session of the State Parliament.

Council welcomed progress in this matter and directed that Messrs. Long and Rawlinson study the draft proposals in detail and thereafter consult with Registry staff on possible subsequent amendments and corrections.

6.ii Companies

Action taken as noted at 4.iii above relating to the continued inclusion of Sections 5(1), 17(7) and 374(14) of the Companies Act 1961 to be included in the modifying Model Companies Bill in its application to Victoria.

7. CENTRALISED BANKING

The requested background papers from operations of the prototype of this scheme by the Cooperative Federation of New South Wales have now been received. Council directed

that the Financial Administrators' group be re-activated to develop strategy to implement and develop a scheme of centralised banking and investment services for Cooperatives in Victoria.

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Minute 11(ii)(b)

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8.

DAIRY COOPERATIVES

8.i

Council noted the report from our member Murray Goulburn Cooperative on legislative changes pending affecting the acquisition of liquid milk in Victoria. Whilst details of the proposed changes are not known, Council considered action should be taken by the Federation and Dairy Cooperatives, members or non-members, to ensure that any amending legislation does not affect the Cooperative status of Dairy Cooperatives in this State.

10.

REPORTS

10.i

8.ii

Membership

Council agreed

that an invitation be issued to the Cooperative Dairy Factories Association to consider block subscription for individual membership of the Federation from the following Dairy Cooperatives:

ACMAL
Camperdown Glenormiston
Colac

10.ii

Drouin Butter Factory
Ibis Milk Products

Moe

Murray Goulburn
North Eastern

Tatura Milk Products

Warrambool Dairy Cooperative

at a block subscription of \$15,000.

The Cooperative Dairy Factories Association to nominate a second representative, preferably of Director status, to the Council of the Cooperative Federation of Victoria in addition to the existing representative from Murray Goulburn Cooperative. These two representatives to hold office until the 1981 Annual General Meeting when the revised constitution provides for election of Directors on a different system but one which should ensure the Dairy Industry would be able to nominate two of its representatives to the continuing Council of the Cooperative Federation of Victoria.

9.

FEES STRUCTURE

10.iii

Council agreed to delete from the affiliation fees structure any reference to affiliation by Associations.

Council further directed

that a paper be prepared for its next meeting showing the potential income by individual subscription under the current affiliation fees rates of Trading Cooperatives, Fishing Cooperatives, Dairy Cooperatives, Artificial Breeding Cooperatives, together with a proposal for group affiliation and the effect on

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Federation income such proposals would have.

10. REPORTS

10.i

Advisory Council

Mr. Long reported the Advisory Council met on 13th November and its deliberations included consideration of the guarantee situation in two Cooperatives in suburban Melbourne. He reported the Advisory Council had received no communication from the Victorian Employment Committee regarding its submission for support for the Cooperative Federation of Victoria's proposal for funding of an official to supervise administration of Work Cooperatives. The subject was referred to the next meeting of the Advisory Council.

Mr. Long also reported the increasing value of the operations of the Credit Union Reserve Fund.

10.ii

Executive Officer

Mr. Rawlinson reported having visited six Cooperatives in the Western District, accompanied by the Federation Chairman. He had also visited three Fishery Cooperatives one of which, Queenscliff, is currently the cause of some concern in its operations and financial status.

He reported the Edenhope Cooperative store and assets are the subject of sale over a three year period.

Mr. Rawlinson also reported having organised meetings of members of the Victorian Employment Committee and representatives of Work Cooperatives as an exchange of information exercise.

Mr. Rawlinson also reported attending a group meeting of Work Cooperatives when further dissatisfaction was expressed with operations of the Victorian Employment Committee and the implementation of announced Government policies towards this type of Cooperative. That group is currently requesting a meeting with the Premier in an endeavour to improve this situation.

10.iii

Cooperative Federation of Australia

The Chairman reported a meeting of the Council of this Federal body was held in Melbourne on 27th November 1980 which he attended, together with Mr. Macintosh.

In addition to discussion and decisions on the Fleet Vehicle Purchasing Scheme reported at 3.i above, the Federal Council had discussed the possibility of developing a Federal lobbying service in conjunction with the Australian Federation of Credit Union Leagues.

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The Cooperative Federation of Australia considered there is a need to continue much closer liaison and co-operation between the three main groups of Cooperatives, i.e. Producer and Trading Cooperatives, Credit Cooperatives and Permanent Building Societies.

The Federal Council authorised its New South Wales member to continue discussions with AFCUL indicating that, if some agreement could be reached, then July 1st 1982 would be a reasonable date for commencement of such a joint exercise. However, the proposals advanced in a paper submitted to the Federal Council including the word "Credit" in the title of the combined organisation was considered unacceptable and a more suitable title was advanced as "Confederation of Australian Cooperatives".

It was further agreed that as a matter of great urgency extra funding was required by the Cooperative Federation of Australia in addition to any income that might be obtained through the Fleet Vehicle Purchase Scheme. Eastern States Federations were asked to increase their contributions to enable the Western Australian Federation to substantially reduce its contribution in the year commencing July 1981.

Discussing the report, doubts were expressed about the relevant Cooperative status of Permanent Building Societies and it was suggested that the incoming Australian President of the Permanent Building Societies Association, Mr. Maybury, be invited to address the next meeting of the Federal Council to speak on this matter.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

11.i
Cooperative Insurance Company Members and Articles of Association

The attention of Council was drawn to a Special General Meeting of Members of the Cooperative Insurance Company to amend its Articles of Association to prohibit the purchase of its shares by companies listed on the Stock Exchange.

11.ii
Alternative Source of Funds

Council directed that information be sought on the possible revenue obtainable through making available lists of names and addresses to industry groups seeking such facilities.

12. NEXT MEETING

The Council agreed its next meeting be held on 16th February 1981.

13. CLOSURE

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.35 p.m.

John H. H. 16.2.81.

THE
held at 225 Swanston

1. PRESENT

APOLOGIES

2. WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Alan Plant, of the Council.

3. MINUTES

Minutes of the Meeting adopted as a correct

4. CORRESPONDENCE

4.i From Council

Minutes set

4.ii From Council

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